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NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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ACRES OF BEAUTY

SAVING A VIRGIN STREAM AND ITS SETTING

In the heavily forested, rainy mountains of the northern California coast, the Conservancy is working to establish one of the nation's important nature preserves: a 6,500 acre wilderness containing the entire drainage basin of an unspoiled stream, and what is probably the largest remaining stand of coastal Douglas-fir. This is the Northern California Coast Range Preserve, for which the Conservancy has set a fund-raising goal of $125,000.

Only a few decades ago, an unbroken wilderness of great ruggedness and beauty stretched for many miles across these mountain ranges. With incredible rapidity it has vanished, much of it since World War II. Deforestation, fire and erosion have swept like a blight through much of the region, and roads have spread their network everywhere.

Thanks to the determined efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Heath Angelo, of Branscomb, an unusually fine example of this country still remains in its primeval state. Their 3,000 acre property has been made available to the Nature Conservancy at only $33 an acre, in order that it may be permanently preserved. The remaining acreage of the project is public domain land under jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Arrangements are being sought to set this aside also.

AN UNDISTURBED WATERSHED

This 5,000 acre Elder Creek drainage basin is believed to be the largest unspoiled watershed in the coast range. Rainfall here is sometimes over 100 inches a year. Falling on steep densely-clothed slopes, the running water affects the pattern of all life. The preservation of this drainage basin means that the whole community of living things can be preserved in its natural unity. Dense Douglas-fir forest is found along the stream bottom, open hardwood forest on slopes, then brush--California's characteristic chaparral--on the ridge-tops. Here wildlife finds a variety of homes: bears in the woodlands, mink along the streamsides, salmon migrating up the clear waters of Elder Creek to spawn, rattlesnakes on sunny rock outcrops, trout in cool pools. This wealth of biotic communities, this rugged land lying between 1300 and 4000 feet, is exposed to nature's rawest elements of wind, rain and sun. Here Elder Creek is born. As it begins life, it sings a ballad telling of a key--a key to a treasure chest containing the unknown secrets of nature's most precious gift to mankind--water. Does this area hold the key to many unknown factors in a healthy natural watershed and stream? If the pure crystalline waters of Elder Creek tumbling night and day out of the wilderness into a silt-laden river really sing a song--it behooves us to listen!

THE SPONSORING COMMITTEE

A Sponsoring Committee of distinguished Californians is being organized to back the project. It includes--William M. Roth of San Francisco; Joseph Houghteling of Atherton, a member of the State Park Commission; C. M. Goethe of Sacramento; Alfred Heller of Nevada City; Mrs. J. W. Mailliard, Jr., of San Francisco; Mrs. Carl Homer of Hillsborough, Zone Conservation Chairman for the Garden Club of America; and Mrs. Stuart Campbell of Orinda, District Conservation Chairman for California Garden Clubs, Inc. Other members will be added to the Committee in coming weeks.

Outstanding support is being given by garden clubs and various other civic groups through their donation of acres. To date 35 groups have given 50 acres and the news is spreading fast. The Garden Club of Palo Alto has voted to donate the proceeds of its forthcoming annual flower show to the project. Many of our Western members are serving as volunteer "salesmen", selling acres to their friends. (A supply of materials will be sent on request to any member who wishes to do this.)

MANAGEMENT

Management of the Preserve is in the hands of a well-qualified committee, who oversee numerous problems of operation, such as fire protection, guarding against trespass, regulations for visitors and maintenance of facilities. The Committee Chairman is Howard Twining, professionally trained conservationist and ranch operator; other members are Waldo S. Cook, M.D.; and Dwayne Blakney, a research forester. Ray Brechbill, a recent graduate of Humboldt State College, has been employed as resident naturalist. He will soon assume responsibility for protection of the area.

VISITORS

The Preserve lies on the South Fork of the Eel River eight miles north of Branscomb. N. C. members are welcome visitors, but for the time being will find fairly restricted access until adequate signs, facilities and routines have been established. The management committee plans to designate certain days as visiting days, in order to free the naturalist for other important duties. It is recommended that inquiry first be made at the Western Regional Office of the Nature Conservancy, 1711-A Grove Street, Berkeley 9, California (telephone THornwall 1-4761) for latest information, before attempting to visit the area. There are no overnight accommodations or camping.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nature Conservancy members will welcome the news of a grant of $35,000 from the Avalon Foundation to the Matching and Loan Fund--this special fund helps in the development of land preservation projects.

In June 1959 the Board of Governors adopted the following fund-raising goals: $100,000 as an addition to the Matching & Loan Fund; $120,000 to develop the national Nature Conservancy program. In the first nine months of the present fiscal year we have received: 70 per cent of our goal for the Matching & Loan Fund; 76 per cent of our goal for Unrestricted Funds from patrons and large contributors; and 77 per cent of our hoped-for goal from memberships. We have $30,000 yet to raise for the Matching & Loan Fund and $28,207 for unrestricted purposes, if we are to reach these goals.

In the same period of time nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of money and real estate has been received toward special projects in various parts of the country. Our thanks to everyone who has made this encouraging progress report possible.

Richard H. Goodwin, Chairman
Fund-Raising Committee

GREAT FALLS

Residents of the metropolitan area of Washington, D. C., recently gained an 887 acre tract of natural beauty near Great Falls on the Potomac. The land located in Virginia and owned by the Potomac Electric Power Company has been leased to the National Park Service for 50 years under a reciprocal agreement. The agreement provides for the purchase of the tract at its appraised value when such action is approved by Congress. The five years' hard work by a behind-the-scenes committee of The Nature Conservancy composed of such stalwarts as C.J.S. Durham and F.R. Fosberg has finally borne fruit. The committee's publication (still available to N. C. members) "Washington's Potowmack Canal Project at Great Falls" was at least partially responsible for portraying the community value of this project so vividly that preservation proved inevitable. A draft agreement by the Conservancy, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the National Park Service, provides for a large part of the acreage to be administered as a natural history study area for education and research.

BACK TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Wouldn't you hate to be a company president with wrathful ladies after your scalp!!!

The idea advanced below by the Pennsylvania Roadside Council might be used to preserve the natural beauty along all our highways. "Blot of The Month Club to be reactivated! Experience has proved that the direct-protest-to-the-advertiser,--to the President of the company,--is still the most effective way to get quick results in the battle against misplaced billboards. And certainly billboards along our unusually scenic Pennsylvania Turnpike are misplaced! Therefore, in the month ahead we suggest that you and all interested friends send letters of protest to the advertisers using exceptionally offensive billboards. Remember, the women of Hawaii rid their island of disfiguring billboards by a flood of letters and a 'ladylike boycott.' Surely Pennsylvanians treasure their scenery as much, and will gladly tell thoughtless advertisers that they will FAVOR THE FIRMS THAT FAVOR THE SCENERY."

STATE REPRESENTATIVES & CHAPTER CHAIRMEN* OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

ALABAMA	E. Gibbes Patton, U. of Ala., Tuscaloosa
ALASKA	Robert Rausch, Arctic Health Res. Ctr., Anchorage
ARKANSAS	Harold E. Alexander, Rt. 3, Box 52-A, Conway
CALIFORNIA	
Monterey Bay	* Laidlaw Williams, Rt. 1, Box 128, Carmel
Orange-San Diego	* Patrick Milburn, 425 Iris Ave., Corona del Mar
Southern	* Roland Ross, L. A. State Coll., Pasadena
CONNECTICUT	Wm. A. Niering, Conn. Coll., New London
Glastonbury	* Mrs. Marie B. Newton, Hickory Dr., S. Glastonbury
GEORGIA	C. H. Wharton, Ga. State Coll., Atlanta
IDAHO	Earl J. Larrison, U. of Idaho, Moscow
ILLINOIS	* Donald T. Ries, Ill. State Normal U., Normal
INDIANA	* Lynton K. Caldwell, Ind. U., Bloomington
LOUISIANA	A. E. Smalley, Tulane U., New Orleans
MAINE	* Wendell S. Hadlock, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland
MARYLAND	G. Flippo Gravatt, 3413 Tulane Dr., Adelphi
MASS.	George C. Shattuck, Harvard Med. Sch., Boston
MICHIGAN	Paul W. Thompson, 17503 Kirkshire Rd., Birmingham
MINNESOTA	* W. H. Tusler, 133 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis
MISSISSIPPI	John H. Frazier, Miss. So. Coll., Hattiesburg
MISSOURI	* William H. Elder, U. of Mo., Columbia
NEW YORK	Alvin C. Whitney, 104 Adams Pl., Delmar
Eastern	* Fraser P. Price, Jr., 2392 Rosendale Rd., Schenectady
L. I.	* W.A.W. Stewart, Jr., U.S. Trust Co. of N. Y., New York 5
Western	* Mrs. E. C. Ulrich, 193 LaSalle Ave., Buffalo
OHIO	* Kenneth W. Hunt, Antioch Coll., Yellow Springs
OKLAHOMA	A. M. Stebler, Okla. State U., Stillwater
OREGON	James A. Macnab, Portland State Coll., Portland
SO. DAKOTA	Nathaniel R. Whitney, Box 271, Rapid City
TENNESSEE	Aaron J. Sharp, U. of Tenn., Knoxville
TEXAS	* John W. Flude, 6 Shadder Way, Houston
UTAH	Stanley B. Mulaik, U. of Utah, Salt Lake City
VERMONT	* James Marvin, 303 Swift St., South Burlington
WASHINGTON	Ira P. Lloyd, 15712 76th Pl., Bothell
W. VIRGINIA	Earl Core, U. of W. Va., Morgantown
WISCONSIN	* Eugene M. Roark, 513 N. Franklin Ave., Madison
WYOMING	Alan A. Beetle, U. of Wyo., Laramie

Representatives are needed in the unlisted states.

ECOLOGICAL STUDIES LEAFLET NO. 1

AMATEUR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES ON NATURAL AREAS

One of the reasons for preserving natural areas is their scientific value. For this value to be realized, studies must be made and information collected. To promote such studies the Board of Governors has established a Committee on Ecological Studies. This committee welcomes the efforts of any careful observer, amateur or professional. It scarcely presumes to give suggestions to professional colleagues, as they may reasonably be expected to have learned or worked out their methods already. The committee might, in some cases, be able to help them find support for some types of work involving expense.

Amateur naturalists may at times need either help or encouragement, or both, though some of them are very competent, indeed, and much excellent scientific work has been accomplished by amateurs. The range of studies that may be worked on to advantage without fancy or expensive instruments or equipment is considerable. The most important equipment for most types of observation are a good pair of eyes and a notebook and fountain pen. For reliable faunal and floral lists appropriate collecting equipment is needed, but this need not be elaborate. For bird studies a pair of good binoculars is a great help.

Some of the more obvious and useful kinds of studies that can be carried out with little expense are the preparation of lists of plants and animals--preferably of limited groups, undertaken separately so as not to delay completion unduly. Suggested groups are seed plants, ferns, mosses, liverworts, fungi, fresh water algae, marine algae, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fishes, Crustacea, the various orders of insects, land and fresh water mollusks, and, if the student has a microscope, rotifers, protozoa, diatoms, desmids, and other tiny forms. Of such rare forms as fresh water medusae and fresh water sponges one does not suggest making a list, but better a detailed account of any single occurrence, with date, locality, habitat, color, form, behavior, and any other information obtainable. Accurate records of dates of leafing out, flowering, ripening of fruit, leaf fall and color change of different species of trees and bushes, blooming of wild flowers, migration and nesting of birds, rise and fall of stream, lake, and pond levels, appearance of different insects, as well as all kinds of weather phenomena are very desirable. Descriptions of the behavior of organisms of all sorts are fascinating to make and of great scientific value. One has but to read the books of the great naturalists to find that the fascinating things they write about are the very phenomena that any one of us may observe on any leisurely walk in the woods or fields. The important qualities of a naturalist, professional or amateur, are that he observes carefully and accurately, persists until he has seen all of a phenomenon, and writes a clear account of what he sees.

The Committee on Ecological Studies will be glad to be informed of any studies, either under way or contemplated, which involve areas that the Nature Conservancy owns or has had any hand in preserving. The Committee will also be happy to offer advice or help with such studies in any way within their power. Leaflets giving directions for certain types of studies will be issued from time to time, written in simple enough language to be understood by any intelligent amateur. It is hoped by this means to encourage work by those who, though interested, may think that serious studies can only be undertaken by those with advanced or professional training.

PUBLISHED PAPERS BASED ON STUDIES IN THE WILLIAM L. HUTCHESON MEMORIAL FOREST

Anderson, Yoko O. 1955. Seasonal development in sun and shade leaves. Ecol. 26: 430-439.

Bard, G. E. 1952. Secondary succession on the piedmont of New Jersey. Ecol. Monogr. 22: 195-215.

Buell, M. F. 1959. The mature oak forest of Mettler's Woods. The William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bull. 1: 16-19.

Buell, M. F., H. F. Buell, and J. A. Small. 1954. Fire in the history of Mettler's Woods. Torrey Bot. Club Bull. 81: 253-255.

Connor, J., N. F. Shimp, and J. C. F. Tedrow. 1957. A spectrographic study of the distribution of trace elements in some podzolic soils. Soil Sci. 83: 65-73.

Monk, C. D. 1957. Plant communities of the Hutcheson Memorial Forest based on shrub distribution. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 84: 198-206.

Monk, C. D. 1959. Note on radial tree growth. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 86: 199-201.

Pearson, Paul G. 1959. Small mammals and old-field succession on the piedmont of New Jersey. Ecology 40 (2): 249-255.

Schneider, George H., Jr. 1952. Geum canadense, a study of its seasonal periodicity in New Jersey. Castanea 17: 17-128.

Small, J. A. 1959. Skunk cabbage, Symplocarpus foetidus. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 86: 413-421.

Sparkes, C. H. and M. F. Buell. 1955. Microclimatological features of an old field and an oak-hickory forest in New Jersey. Ecol. 36: 363-364.

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THIS IS BEING DONE ON THE SAME AREA!

Research projects under way in the William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest include work on forest soils, fungi, humus; the effect of drought, and growth and periodicity in the woods; and such an intensive investigation as hickory as an accumulator of rare earth elements. Various faunal studies include those on mammals, bird, salamander, insects, and soil microfauna. Some of the investigators are Florenzo Balloni, John A. Small, H. R. and M. F. Buell, Jeff Swinebroad, Carl D. Monk, Frieda Taub, Donald Whitehead, Howard Lull, Harry Bastron, W. P. Robinson, Peter Root, Paul P. Shubeck, M. J. Barbosa, Karen Frei, and M. Levin.

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Communications regarding any proposed scientific work on Conservancy natural areas may be addressed to the chairman of the Committee.

Dr. F. R. Fosberg, Chairman
Committee on Ecological Studies

ECOLOGICAL STUDIES LEAFLET NO. 2

A PLANT CENSUS OF A NATURAL AREA

The simplest form of plant census is a list of the names of all species and varieties of plants found growing in the area. By names is meant, of course, botanical names, as these are the only ones that convey the same meaning in one region as in another. Local vernacular or common names may, of course, be added if desired.

To the bare list it is desirable to add information on how common or abundant each species is, whether it grows scattered or in groups or colonies, and in what sort of spot or habitat it commonly occurs. Valuable, also, is any information on when it appears or leafs out in the spring, on flowering, fruit ripening, and leaf-fall dates, and on whether it is commonly found in the region, or if it is local, rare, or found only in the preserve.

For practical reasons, it is usually best to prepare five separate lists to cover the total flora of an area, one for seed plants and ferns, one for mosses and liverworts, one for algae, one for lichens, and one for fungi. Often these will be the work of several different people, and even if by one person the lists are best kept separate, as the delay in securing correct identifications for some of the lower plants might unduly delay the whole project, when one or more of the lists could be made available or published without waiting for the others.

To be of real value, each recorded species in a census should be backed up by a carefully prepared herbarium specimen deposited in a permanent herbarium, preferably in an institution which accepts the responsibility for maintaining such a collection. This may be a local or state museum, a university or college, or one of the national institutions. It is usually not difficult to get a well prepared, well labelled collection accepted by such an institution, especially if it is made clear that the specimens are the basis of published records.

Specimens should be whole plants or fragments, showing the parts necessary for identification, of a size to fit into a fold of newspaper (maximum 11 by 16 inches). It should be pressed flat when fresh (not wilted), arranged in a natural attitude, spread out so that all parts are visible, roots cleaned of mud, and dried under pressure between blotting papers, these changed frequently enough to promote rapid drying.

Labels should be written on slips of paper, giving the name of the natural area, its location, the type of habitat and notes on occurrence, collector's name, a serial number, date of collection, and any information that will not show on the dried specimen, such as color of flower, size of plant if a tree or shrub, odor, taste, etc.

Specimens of common plants may be collected within the natural area, of rare ones preferably just outside, or else collected in such a way as to leave the roots undisturbed. Duplicate specimens should be made, from exactly the same place, at the same time, if another person is to be asked to identify or check the collection, as it is very inconsiderate to ask a botanist to go to the work of identification without giving him the specimen for his own herbarium. When specimens are sent away for identification, the names are commonly sent back, listed by the collector's serial numbers, and if the duplicates have been given the same number, the names may be placed on the labels by number.

It is, of course, half the fun to identify one's own collections. However, some plants are very difficult, and most of the books are in places confusing, so it is a good idea to have the identifications checked by a botanist. Some of the more difficult ones will doubtless prove quite baffling, and one usually ends up by sending many of them to a botanist for identification. Arrangements should be made for this, either in person or by correspondence, before any plants are sent, as the botanist may be busy or it may not be convenient.

Identifications are made either by comparison with already named specimens in a herbarium, or by means of a manual, or book on the plants of the region in which the natural area is located. For seed plants and ferns such manuals exist for almost all parts of the U. S., though some of them are badly out of date and inaccurate or incomplete. For some of the groups of lower plants it may be very difficult to find a suitable book, and it may be necessary to go to a specialist right away for identifications. This is especially true of the fungi.

For identification of larger plants, such as seed plants and ferns, with the available manuals, a small amount of equipment is needed, including a strong hand lens or magnifier, a millimeter ruler, a forceps or tweezers, and a couple of needles mounted in handles, for opening up flowers. Most of the manuals contain instructions for the use of the keys for identification, as well as glossaries, or lists of the special terms used in describing plants, with definitions and often illustrations. Appended is a list of a few of the more important regional and state manuals of the flowering plants and ferns.

In preparing the census it is best to list the plants in the same order in which they occur in the manual used, as this facilitates reference back to the manual. When such lists are ready to be put in final form for publication, the Committee on Ecological Studies of the Nature Conservancy will be glad to examine them and make any appropriate suggestions.

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AN EXAMPLE OF RESEARCH ON NATURAL AREAS.—

In a recent report of the Study Committee of the Ecological Society of America, Prof. Paul B. Sears writes "The Committee also recognizes the very great importance of the preservation of scientific research areas and the need to follow the British example of setting up research projects in such natural areas as now exist."

In this connection it is of interest to note that one of the outstanding ecological papers presented at the Ninth International Botanical Congress at Montreal last summer was on "The Productivity of Some British Woodlands," by John D. Ovington, of the British Nature Conservancy. Using several of the preserved areas, Dr. Ovington tackled the almost insoluble problem of measuring organic productivity in a forest ecosystem. Compared with the several other papers on similar subjects presented at the congress this one was outstanding in its meticulous planning and attention to sampling the entire productivity picture. Of special interest is the fact that the study was based on areas which are preserved and will be continuously available for long-term continuing studies. Objectives are to determine the mechanisms of efficient utilization of a site by a forest community and whether high productivity of forest crops can be sustained indefinitely.

--F. R. Fosberg

"SAVE A SPOT OF BEAUTY FOR AMERICA"

Mr. Hard's article in January Reader's Digest has brought over 1300 letters to the national office. Much heart warming appreciation of the work The Conservancy is doing, was expressed. Mrs. Eliot B. Coulter, our volunteer analyst, has made a detailed study of the letters which will be published at a later date. The letters quoted below, give some idea of the varied and warm response aroused by the article. The writers, from every state, in age from eleven to eighty-seven, show a sensitivity that is developing throughout the country.

LETTERS FROM THE MIDWEST

"I believe I have been trying to do, alone and with little finance, what Nature Conservancy is aiming at. I own 272 acres--there are eight caves, one of great beauty and two so large they have never been thoroughly explored. The water from the caves is so cold that this is Southern Indiana's only trout stream. Indiana University chose it as one of the most beautiful "almost inaccessible" wilderness spots. V. G."

"Our Washington County (Iowa) holds title to a forty acre timber tract in its natural state. It was the wish of the donor, and I think the will so recites, that it be kept in that condition. We have had it for several years but the Board of Supervisors have done nothing with it (except to give the Boy Scouts permission to build a small scout house where they go for hikes and overnight camps) because they do not know what to do. A. D."

"I have a 213-acre tract of land in Clark County, Wisconsin. I want to donate part of it as a permanent endowment for my son killed in War II and for the Kleinschmidt family. L. K. A."

"I hope you will not grow weary in the long and honorable fight to preserve the beauties of nature. F. M. F."

"It's gratifing to know you exist, as I am trying desperately to give 18 acres of semi-virgin forest back to mother nature and I need all the moral support I can get. H. S."

"We have about 80 acres of marshes in about the center of our town in Wisconsin, which some of us wish to preserve as a sanctuary for wild life and man, and need your advice as to how to proceed. A. B. J."

"Please send me information on your wilderness project. I own some acres in their natural state and wish to preserve them. H. E. M."

LETTERS FROM THE WEST

"I am an amateur prospector from away back and have penetrated to areas few people have seen, and two years ago I found one that to me should be left as is forever. It is a virgin timber area with cedar trees up to 14 and 16 feet through still standing, many are down from winter and natural causes and they are large enough down that you walk way around them not over them. There is a beautiful stream with native trout running through the center of the area--snow banks above that never melt, well I could go on for many pages about how I see this place but the main thing is that I would like to assist in preserving it so that my children and theirs may someday see this as I have. R. K."

"Please send information concerning procedure for organizing an activity to conserve trees near Mt. Palomar Observatory, California. The ADENOSTOMA SPARSIFOLIUM (red shank or ribbon wood) is a species which grows in southern Riverside County and northern San Diego County, California, and the only other area it is known is in South America. L. R."

LETTERS FROM THE EAST

"I am of Eastern Woodland American Indian descent (Susquehannock Spirit Talking People), and as a result can appreciate better than the non-Indian the great need of the kind of work you are doing...The billions spent abroad might better be used here at home in the preservation, protection, and propagation of the Great Spirit's great gifts to man...I would suggest that Nature Conservancy take action to have set aside as preserves lands at the headwaters of important streams and their tributaries to conserve and protect our essential fresh-water supply; launch projects and publicity to protect our forests and wild life from greed and wanton destruction...May you always walk in bright paths. Lightfoot Talking Eagle"

"The area is completely wild and untouched and is supposed to be the only tract of virgin forest that is privately owned in the State of New York.....I have long been considering the preservation of this virgin woods by deed of gift. K. A. C."

"We are currently working toward the establishment of a number of Conservancy areas within our township through conservation zoning, acquisition of conservation covenants from landowners as well as by direct acquisition. We also hope to see "Open-Space" planning incorporated in forthcoming Master Planning. E. E. M."

"Near the Southern line of Western New York State, there is a forested section, in Chautauqua County, near Lily Dale, Cassadaga, N. Y. I have heard that some of the oldest and largest trees east of the Rocky Mts. are still standing. W. B."

"I have seen only one virgin forest in my life and it surpassed any man made thing I have ever seen. P.L.P."

"Being a Thoreau fan, I was greatly aroused by that article. Only someone who lives in the "wilderness" of New York City can truly appreciate nature. V. C."

LETTERS FROM THE SOUTH

"About seven miles South of Pensacola, Florida (Escambia County), in the adjoining county of Santa Rosa, and located on the Santa Rosa Peninsula there is a "wilderness" that should be preserved...I may have the history a little garbled, but it is roughly this: when the territory that is now Florida was made a part of the United States, (I believe in the time of President Monroe) this area was given to the U. S. Navy. The area was called the Live Oak Reservation and its use to the Navy was to provide the Oak Knees for construction and repair of such ships as the "Constitution" and "Constellation". As I recall when the "Constitution" was rehabilitated in the 1920s, the necessary timbers were taken from this reservation. H. J. M."

"Your article in Reader's Digest is just what I have been waiting for. Even though I am just eleven years old, I am very worried about the world losing it's natural wilderness. J. H."

"I am quite old (87) but very active. What can I do about preserving my spot of natural beauty for future generations? B. M."

"I have long been interested in getting an area set aside in this locality for nature to develop in its own way, that far distant generations might see the trees native to this locality in their grandest form. I am so keenly interested in such a project that I intend to buy about 105 acres of land when, and if, it becomes available and to donate it to some organization for this purpose. I am not a wealthy man--just average income but with probably far above average interest in my natural surroundings. H. C. B."

NOTES OF INTEREST

* Good news from Ohio!

The Yellow Springs, Ohio, Village Council relinquished the plan for a gravity sewer through the Natural Area in Glen Helen, in favor of the pressure sewer line that would by-pass the Glen.

The impressive testimony from many people throughout the country about Glen Helen's value as a nature preserve and outdoor education center was vital to this decision.

* A small group of citizens (some of whom are Nature Conservancy members) from Fort Wayne has formed a group called "Acres" to acquire and preserve natural areas for scientific, educational and public recreational purposes in Allen County, Indiana. DR. JOHN W. KLOTZ, professor of Natural Science at Concordia Senior College, who is serving as first president of the organization, is in direct liaison with the newly formed Indiana Chapter of the N. C. With these two new groups, one working on a county basis and one with a statewide program, the 113 natural areas recently listed for Indiana should soon become active candidates-up for preservation.

* The scientific review of the Southern California Chapter has developed a tentative priority list of natural areas for their region--sites include coastal dunes, natural wetlands, geological sites, palm oases, and mountain forests. LOUIS C. WHEELER, committee chairman, has proposed a comprehensive survey on 5 key sites to get the detailed information needed prior to the activation of preservation projects.

* The newly formed Glastonbury Chapter of The Nature Conservancy participated in a science workshop for elementary school teachers of Glastonbury, March 22nd. A workshop committee prepared displays and distributed educational material. To tie together the variety of materials, the film "The Web of Life" (based on the book) and issued by the Encyclopedia Britannica, was shown to seventy teachers. MRS. NORMAN NEWTON, chapter chairman, concluded the day's activities by telling of the aims of the Conservancy locally, and calling on the teachers for help in developing public awareness of the growing need for conserving natural areas.

* Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota which was recently established comprises approximately 700 acres. The Monument is the scene of the historic 9-mile-trail used by thousands of travelers, to bypass a series of falls and rapids in the Pigeon River just before it empties into Lake Superior. Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians recently donated lands to the Federal Government for the Monument.

* The Buffalo Audubon Society has recently completed negotiations to purchase an additional tract of 98 acres at Allenberg Bog, and hopes to procure more land in the future.

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PARKS ARE FOR PEOPLE

By W. Allen Perry

"This modern, accepted concept of public park philosophy and purpose has unquestioned and practically universal acceptance. In fact, it is so free from controversy that, in its unequivocal simplicity, it could be the great undoing of a boon to man that has been developing, too slowly perhaps, throughout recorded history...If we are to have abundant 'recreation of a passive or active nature,' we must have space...There is a very real and great danger to the park program in the United States through failure to continue to acquire park lands on a scale commensurate with the dedications made in the last century and a half...However, if we don't devote some of that money and time to protecting our parks, we will face a rude awakening wherein we will find that what we always thought was Central Park, Fairmount Park, Franklin Park or Balboa Park was just some land held through the years in escrow for motorists, trucking companies, bus routes, airports, trade fairs, profitable conventions, show-business-with-trees...but not people."

--Parks & Recreation

MULTIPLE VALUES

Tom Nelson, Assistant Director of Parks in Kentucky, in a recent article points out the pressures building up on the older State Parks.

"....We need new recreation areas to take the load off the older state park areas. Simply because there usually isn't enough money to do everything, we may have to compromise: to develop state parks which have both scenic views--spots of lovely wilderness--and heavily-used recreation areas. These should be spotted about our states, everywhere within easy driving distance of towns and cities. When we can combine these things--scenic beauty plus areas to be heavily boated, parking-spaced, and otherwise used--we shall be serving the public best.

"....We should not sacrifice irreplaceable scenery to serve the public's unthinking demands. But we should, by conscientious, studied effort, work out a stable compromise between the two...."

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950 the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy; incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which fourteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 28 nature preserves in ten states, having an area of some 6,400 acres. These range in size from one acre to 3,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in five additional states, the total area of which is about 10,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $5 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $200 or more to life membership, and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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